

## Department of Corrections Advisory Council

### Minutes

May 14-15, 2008

*Please note: These are summary minutes. The minutes are also accompanied by an audio recording. For each capitalized bold heading listed, the minutes indicate the approximate amount of time in hours, minutes, and seconds has elapsed since the start of the meeting. **The time is a link that may be selected to download and listen to the audio recording.***

#### Members Present

Lt. Gov. John Bohlinger  
Rep. Tim Callahan  
Sheriff Dave Castle  
Kris Copenhaver-Landon  
Dist. Judge Kurt Krueger  
Sen. Jim Shockley

Bob Peake  
Sen. Trudi Schmidt  
Cnty. Comm. Allan Underdal  
Channis Whiteman  
Sen. Steve Gallus

#### Members Excused

Cnty. Attny. George Corn  
Kevin Madman

#### Staff Present

Mike Ferriter  
Pam Bunke  
Mike Mahoney  
Gayle Lambert  
Bob Anez  
Ross Swanson  
Rick Deady  
Tony Heaton

Kelly Speer  
Sam Lemaich  
Sally Hilander  
Gary Hamel  
Steve Gibson  
Ron Alsbury  
Myrna Omholt-Mason  
Rhonda Schaffer

The Advisory Council met May 14-15, 2008, in the lower-level conference room at the Helena Prerelease center. Lt. Governor Bohlinger, chairman, called the May 14, 2008 meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Sen. Steve Gallus chaired the meeting after the break. The May 15, 2008 meeting was chaired by Rep. Tim Callahan.

**Minutes approval-** The February minutes were approved. Motion by: Sen. Schmidt, motion carried.

May 14, 2008 Afternoon session

[0:00:00](#)

#### **INMATE CLOTHING AND GATE MONEY**

**Report presented by:** Mike Mahoney, MSP Warden

**Discussion topics:** clothing issued to offenders upon discharge; inmate welfare fund; gate money and eligibility; offender savings accounts.

**Actions:** Sen. Schmidt asked Warden Mahoney to poll other states as to gate money and report back at the August meeting.

[0:28:40](#)

## **STATE I.D.'S FOR OFFENDERS**

**Report presented by:** Gayle Lambert, Administrator of MCE

**Discussion topics:** overview of Montana Identification Card project; number of MCE offenders earning minimum wage/breakdown of earnings.

[0:35:04](#)

**Introduction of Sally Hilander, victim information specialist by Bob Anez.**

0:36:30

## **VICTIM SERVICES**

**Report presented by:** Sally Hilander, Victim Information Specialist

**Discussion topics:** overview of VINE notification system; DOC's adult restorative justice programs.

**Actions:** Sen. Schmidt asked Sally to report, at the August meeting, her ideas at getting the word to victims regarding services available through DOC.

[0:55:38](#)

## **RECIDIVISM ISSUE**

**Report presented by:** Mike Ferriter, Director  
Gary Hamel, Administrator of Health, Planning  
and Information Services

**Discussion topics:** re-define the definition of recidivism; overview of the Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) performance based measurement definition; request by the department to adopt ASCA's definition.

**Motion:** Sen. Shockley moved to adopt ASCA definition as proposed, second by Sen. Schmidt, motion carried.

[1:43:52](#)

Lt. Gov. excused himself to leave for Great Falls to open the Special Olympics. May 15, 2008 he will be a speaker at a safety conference in West Yellowstone. Before leaving he shared the findings of a study group

re: employer's workman's compensation rates. The rates will decrease by 4.6%. Work Safe Montana, a new safety program, will be implemented. If all the recommendations outlined in the program are adopted, there is a potential savings with rates decreasing 40% within the next three years.

1:47:00-1:48:00 BREAK

[1:48:05](#)

## **DISCUSSION OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION FOR DEPARTMENT'S BIENNIAL REPORT**

**Report presented by:** Bob Anez, Communications Director

**Discussion topics:** overview of statistical data in the 2007 biennial report; asking for council members' suggestions if additional data needs to be added; general discussion of the report.

**Actions:** Sen. Schmidt suggested showing which prerelease centers are co-ed, the gender breakdown and capacity of each center; in the glossary replace terms of institutional and non-institutional replace with prison and alternatives to prison; define prerelease centers.

Sen. Gallus asked to have the previous 2006 biennium budget data remain in the report for comparison to 2008 biennium data; show specific increase/decrease expenditures department wide.

Bob Peake requested to revise the definition of juvenile recidivism to reflect accurate data; include Guide Home and juvenile transition center data, i.e., number of placements, gender breakdown, recidivism, and success rate.

*May 15, 2008, Morning session*

0:00:00 Session called to order by Rep. Callahan and introduction of staff and visitors.

[0:02:00](#)

## **UPDATE ON WORK OF STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Report presented by:** Ross Swanson, MSP Deputy Warden  
Jim Whaley, Architecture and Engineering  
Division of the Department of  
Administration  
Steve Carter, Consultant-presented by telephone

**Handouts:** Strategic Planning Committee fact sheet and Scope of Services provided by Steve Carter, consultant

**Discussion topics:** strategic planning committee update; funded and non-funded building projects; discussion of strategic master plan for DOC.

[0:44:30](#)

## **YOUTH SERVICES DIVISION UPDATE**

**Report presented by:** Steve Gibson, Administrator of Youth Services

**Discussion topics:** juvenile recidivism, capacity, reentry, and tracking of data methodology; guide homes and transition center update; closure of a second unit at Pine Hills; utilization of facilities, programs, and staff.

**Action:** Bob Peake requested Youth Services track juvenile recidivism using similar methods as the adult system i.e., count youth going back into juvenile facilities for any reason.

Sen. Schmidt asked for the number of youth coming back to Pine Hills for any reason; how many youth are currently in Guide Homes, transition center, and Pine Hills; how the funds allocated for youth reentry programs is disbursed within the specific components; how many youth are on parole and the number of caseloads.

1:37:00-1:54:30 BREAK

[1:54:31](#)

## **MODIFIED OFFENDER POPULATION FORCAST TO REFLECT INCREASED EMPHASIS ON SUPERVISING OFFENDERS ON PROBATION OR PAROLE**

**Report presented by:** Gary Hamel, Administrator of Health, Planning and Information Services

**Discussion topics:** discussion of changes in programs, services, and number of offenders on supervision; review offender population projection tracking sheet.

[2:13:50](#)

## **ADULT COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS UPDATE**

**Report presented by:** Pam Bunke, Administrator of Adult Community Corrections

**Discussion topics:** corrections population trends; cost of housing offenders in county facilities; expansion of community corrections programs; methods of payment for treatment options for offenders.

[2:55:26](#)

## **PROBATION AND PAROLE UPDATE**

**Report presented by:** Ron Alsbury, Probation and Parole Bureau Chief

**Discussion topics:** impact of increased P&P caseloads; implementation of new strategies re: offender management.

[3:18:10](#)

## **MISSOULA ASSESSMENT AND SANCTION CENTER**

**Report presented by:** Pam Bunke, Administrator of Adult Community Corrections

**Discussion topics:** overview of facility; offender assessment protocol; treatment/placement protocol.

[3:26:30](#)

## **ROLE OF PRERELEASE CENTERS IN CORRECTIONS SYSTEM**

**Report presented by:** Kelly Speer, Facilities Program Bureau Chief

**Discussion topics:** how centers function; offender population in centers; siting; future need for specialized centers.

3:50:35

May 15, 2008 morning session adjourn – lunch break

*May 15, 2008 Afternoon session*

[0:00:10](#)

## **TREASURE STATE CORRECTIONAL TRAINING CENTER**

**Report presented by:** Tony Heaton, Superintendent

**Discussion topics:** description of the boot camp program; working relationships w/ MSP and MASC; future needs of the facility.

[0:24:00](#)

## **TREATMENT FACILITIES/PROGRAM TRENDS AND ISSUES**

**Report presented by:** Rick Allan Deady, Treatment Contract Manager

**Discussion topics:** overview of the seven treatment facilities; lengthier treatment programs; DUI programs; recidivism rates; sex offender facility RFP; future needs re: facilities/programs.

**Action:** Sen. Shockley asked for outcome measures related to the Intensive Treatment Unit at MSP.

[1:32:06](#)

Director Ferriter's closing comments

1:33:11

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Donald and Wilber Fish, Great Falls, addressed the meeting and talked about Native American offender issues relating to practicing their cultural beliefs.

1:42:36

Meeting wrap-up and next meeting date:

- Tentative date is August 12 & 13, 2008 hosted at MSP(members will be polled)
- Maintaining and adding information in member's binders
- Director Ferriter told the members that questions regarding daily populations in facilities can be found on the department's webpage.

**AUGUST AGENDA TOPICS:**

- Possibility of touring the boot camp
- Invite a BOPP staff member to discuss release considerations
- Native American sweat lodges at the facilities
- gate money in relation to offenders' discharge transition plans